IN THE CLAIMS

Complete listing of the claims

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn)   An information sharing system for image forming apparatuses comprising:

a first image forming apparatus comprising:

a first storage for storing first determined data for controlling image formation;

a determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning a predetermined request; and

a first controller for controlling the determined data providing section; and

a second image forming apparatus comprising:

a second storage for storing second determined data for controlling image formation;

a determined data obtaining section for making the predetermined request; and

a second controller for controlling the determined data providing section.

13. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 12, wherein the determined data obtaining section sends determined data request data for requesting the first determined data to the determined data providing section, and

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data requested based on the determined data request data.

14. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 12, wherein the fist controller reads the first determined data stored in the first storage, and makes the determined data providing section send the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus, and

the second controller stores the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus in the second storage.

15. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of first image forming apparatuses and a plurality of second image forming apparatuses,

wherein the determined data obtaining section of any one of the plurality of second image forming apparatuses sends the determined data request data for requesting the first determined data of any one of the plurality of first image forming apparatuses, to the any one of the plurality of first image forming apparatuses, and

the first controller of the first image forming apparatus which receives the determined data request data reads the first determined data requested based on the determined data request data out of the first storage, and makes the determined data providing section send the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus.

16. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 13, wherein each of the first determined data, the second determined data and the determined data request data include item identification data for identifying a determined item.

17. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 16, wherein the second storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data, and

the second controller stores the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus in the second storage when determining that the second storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data included in the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus.

18. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 17, wherein the second controller stores the item identification data and a data storage capacity threshold related to the item identification data in the second storage, and stores the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus in the second storage when determining that data amount of the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus is not more than the data storage capacity threshold corresponding to the item identification data included in the first determined data.

19. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 12, wherein the fist image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data obtaining section for making a predetermined request,

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning the predetermined request,

the fist controller controls the second determined data obtaining section to request the second determined data providing section to output the second determined data, and

the second controller controls the second determined data providing section to provide the second determined data to the second determined data obtaining section.

20. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 19, wherein each of the first determined data and the second determined data include item identification data for identifying a determined item.

21. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 20, wherein the first storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data, and

the first controller stores the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus in the fist storage when determining that the fist storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data included in the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus.

22. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 21, wherein the first controller stores the item identification data and a data storage capacity threshold related to the item identification data in the first storage, and stores the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus in the first storage when determining that data amount of the second determined data received the second image forming apparatus is not more than the data storage capacity threshold corresponding to the item identification data included in the second determined data.

23. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 12, further comprising a data processing apparatus comprising an instruction sending section for sending a determined data providing instruction to at least the first controller,

wherein the first image forming apparatus further comprises an instruction receiving section for receiving the determined data providing instruction sent from the instruction sending section, and

the first controller provides the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

24. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein the data processing apparatus further comprises an input receiving section for receiving an input of a determined data providing apparatus capable of receiving the determined data providing instruction,

wherein the instruction sending section sends the determined data providing instruction to the determined data providing apparatus received by the input receiving section.

25. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein the first image forming apparatus further comprises a determination section for determining the first determined data,

the first storage stores the first determined data determined by the determination section, and a determined data transfer address to which the first determined data are transferred, and

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data stored in the first storage to the determined data transfer address, on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

26. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 25, wherein the fist controller determines whether the second image forming apparatus having the determined data transfer address to which the first determined data are transferred is capable of receiving data or not, and

the determined data providing section provide the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus when the first controller determines that the second image forming apparatus is capable of receiving data.

27. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 26, wherein the first controller communicates with the second image forming apparatus, and determines whether the second image forming apparatus is capable of receiving data or not on the basis of a communication result.

28. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein the fist controller selects determined data instructed to be provided from the first determined data stored in the first storage on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section, and

the determined data providing section provides the determined data selected by the first controller to the second image forming apparatus.

29. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein the first storage stores a plurality of determined data transfer addresses to which the first determined data are transferred,

the first controller selects any one of the plurality of determined data transfer addresses stored in the first storage on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section, and

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data to the determined data transfer address selected.

30. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a determined data renewing section for renewing the second determined data stored in the second storage based on the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus.

31. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 30, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a save section for saving the second determined data stored in the second storage when renewing the second determined data stored in the second storage based on the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus.

32. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 31, wherein the determined data providing section sends data for instructing whether to save the second determined data stored in the second storage in the save section of the second image forming apparatus or not, when providing the first determined data stored in the first storage to the second image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

33. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of first image forming apparatuses comprising determination sections for determining the first determined data, and a plurality of second image forming apparatuses,

wherein the data processing apparatus further comprises a specifying section for specifying any first image forming apparatus of the plurality of first image forming apparatuses to provide the fist determined data, an item of the first determined data of the first image forming apparatus to be provided, and any second image forming apparatus of the plurality of second image forming apparatuses to which the fist determined data corresponding to the item are provided,

the instruction sending section sends the determined data providing instruction and information specified by the specifying section to the first controller of the first image forming apparatus specified by the specifying section,

the first storage stores the first determined data determined by the determination section, and a determined data transfer address to which the first determined data are transferred,

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data stored in the fist storage to the determined data transfer address on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section, and

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a determined data renewing section for renewing the second determined data stored in the second storage based on the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus.

34. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 33, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a save section for saving the second determined data stored in the second storage when receiving the first determined data from the first image forming apparatus.

35. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 23, wherein the second image forming apparatus an existing data sending section for sending the second determined data store in the second storage to the data processing apparatus when receiving the first determined data from the first image forming apparatus, and

the data processing apparatus further comprises a save section for saving the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus.

36. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 33, wherein the specifying section of the data processing apparatus specifies whether to save the second determined data stored in the second storage of the second image forming apparatus to which the first determined data are provided or not,

the instruction sending section of the data processing apparatus sends the determined data providing instruction and information specified by the specifying section to the first image forming apparatus specified by the specifying section,

the instruction receiving section of the first image forming apparatus receives the determined data providing instruction from the data processing apparatus, and

the determined data providing section of the first image forming apparatus sends data for instructing whether to save the second determined data stored in the second storage of the second image forming apparatus or not when providing the first determined data stored in the first storage to the second image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

37. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 33, wherein the fist image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data obtaining section for making a predetermined request,

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning the predetermined request,

the instruction sending section of the data processing apparatus sends the determined data providing instruction to the second controller,

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second instruction receiving section for receiving the determined data providing instruction sent from the instruction sending section, and

the second controller provides the second determined data to the first image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the second instruction receiving section.

38. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 37, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second determination section for determining the second determined data,

the second storage stores the second determined data determined by the second determination section, and a determined data transfer address to which the second determined data are transferred, and

the second determined data providing section provides the second determined data stored in the second storage to the determined data transfer address on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the second instruction receiving section.

39. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 38, wherein the second controller determines whether the first image forming apparatus to which the second determined data are transferred is capable of receiving data or not, and

the second determined data providing section provides the second determined data to the first image forming apparatus when the second controller determines that the first image forming apparatus is capable of receiving data.

40. (Withdrawn)   The system of claim 39, wherein the second controller communicates with the fist image forming apparatus, and determines whether the first image apparatus is capable of receiving data or not on the basis of a communication result.

41. (New)   An image forming apparatus capable of communicating with another image forming apparatus which comprises an HTTP server program, comprising:

a first storage for storing an HTTP server program and an HTTP client program;

a second storage for storing a parameter data used in the image forming apparatus;

an operation section for an input performed by an operator; and

a controller for responding to the input from the operation section, for requesting the another image forming apparatus to transfer the parameter data by the HTTP client program, for receiving the parameter data transferred from the another image forming apparatus by the HTTP server program of the another image forming apparatus, and for writing the parameter data to the second storage.

42. (New)   The image forming apparatus of claim 41, wherein the parameter data transferred from the another image forming apparatus includes a password of a manager or an initial set value used when the image forming apparatus is started.

43. (New)   The image forming apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a display for displaying an operation in which the parameter data is transferred from the another image forming apparatus to the image forming apparatus.

44. (New)   An image forming apparatus capable of communicating with another image forming apparatus which comprises an HTTP server program, comprising:

   a first storage for storing an HTTP server program and an HTTP client program;

   second storage for storing a parameter data used in the image forming apparatus;

   an operation section for an input performed by an operator; and

   a controller for responding to the input from the operation section, for accessing to the another image forming apparatus by the HTTP client program, and for sending a signal which requires the HTTP server program of the another image forming apparatus to receive a transfer of the parameter data.

45. (New)   The image forming apparatus of claim 44, wherein the parameter data transferred from the image forming apparatus includes a password of a manager or an initial set value used when the image forming apparatus is started.

46. (New)   The image forming apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a display for displaying an operation in which the parameter data is transferred from the image forming apparatus to the another image forming apparatus.

47. (New)   The image forming apparatus of claim 44, wherein the apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of other image forming apparatuses which comprise the HTTP server program; and

the operation section includes a selecting section for selecting one image forming apparatus to which the parameter data is to be transferred among the plurality of other image forming apparatuses.

48. (New)   An image forming system in which a first image forming apparatus and a second image forming apparatus are connected so as to be capable of communicating with each other, wherein

the first image forming apparatus comprises:

a first storage for storing an HTTP server program and an HTTP client program;

a second storage for storing a parameter data used in the first image forming apparatus; and

a first operation section for an input performed by an operator;

the second image forming apparatus comprises:

a third storage for storing an HTTP server program and an HTTP client program;

a fourth storage for storing a parameter data used in the second image forming apparatus; and

a second operation section for an input performed by an operator; and

the image forming system starts the HTTP server program stored in the first storage and the HTTP client program stored in the third storage, or starts the HTTP client program stored in the first storage and the HTTP server program stored in the third storage, the image forming system transfers the parameter data stored in the second storage from the first image forming apparatus to the second image forming apparatus, and writes the parameter data to the fourth storage.

49. (New)   The image forming system of claim 48, wherein the second image forming apparatus comprises a controller for responding to the input from the second operation section, for requesting the first image forming apparatus to transfer the parameter data by the HTTP client program stored in the third storage, for receiving the parameter data transferred from the first image forming apparatus by the HTTP server program of the first image forming apparatus, and for writing the parameter data to the second storage.

50. (New)   The image forming system of claim 48, wherein the first image forming apparatus comprises a first controller for responding to the input from the first operation section, for accessing to the second image forming apparatus by the HTTP client program stored in the first storage, and for sending a signal which requires the HTTP server program stored in the third storage to receive the transfer of the parameter data; and

the second image forming apparatus comprises a second controller for transferring the parameter data stored in the second storage by the HTT~ server program stored in the third storage, and for writing the parameter data to the fourth storage.